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COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
Second session
Geneva, 15-24 May 1995
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Substantive themes:

   (a) Technology for small-scale economic activities to address the basic needs of low-income populations;

   (b) The gender implications of science and technology for developing countries;

   (c) The science and technology aspects of the sectoral issue to be discussed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995.

3. Coordination of activities in science and technology for development:

   (a) Coordination and cooperation in science and technology within the United Nations system;

   (b) Progress report on endogenous capacity-building at national and regional levels;

   (c) Cooperation in the field of technology assessment and forecasting;

   (d) Review of operational activities of the United Nations system;

   (e) Interaction with organizations outside the United Nations system.

4. Reports of the ad hoc panels.

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5. Action arising from the first session of the Commission.

6. Financing science and technology for development.

7. Scientific and technological aspects of:

   (a) Sustainable development;

   (b) Conversion of military capacities.

8. Election of the chairperson and other officers for the third session of the Commission.

9. Provisional agenda and organization of work for the third session of the Commission.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its second session.

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The provisional agenda and documentation for the second session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993 in decision 1993/321.

The tentative organization of work of the second session is to be found in the annex to the present document.

It should be noted that the Commission, at its first session, elected its Bureau for the second session. The Bureau is composed of the following:

Chairman: Oscar Serrate Cuéllar (Bolivia)

Vice-Chairmen: Vladimir A. Labounov (Belarus)
Mohammed M. El Halwagi (Egypt)
J. Dhar (India)
J. G. Waardenburg (Netherlands)

It was understood that one of the Vice-Chairmen would also serve as Rapporteur.

2. Substantive themes

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1993/74, decided that three substantive themes should be the focus of the work of the Commission during the inter-sessional period 1993-1995. For each substantive theme, the Commission established a panel of its own members having responsibility for preparing a draft report for consideration by the Commission as a whole at its

second session. The panels appointed their own Chairman and, in some cases, a Director of Studies. The programme of activities was launched under the auspices of the Bureau of the Commission in July 1993. The selected themes were the following:

(a) Technology for small-scale economic activities to address the basic needs of low-income populations

Under this theme, the Commission proposed consideration of the following issues:

(i) Access to and adaptation of technology, and North-South and South-South transfer of technology;

(ii) Effects of productivity;

(iii) Generation of jobs and income to combat poverty by addressing the basic needs (education, health, housing and food) of low-income populations, including issues related to gender and age;

(iv) Dissemination mechanisms, including training, regional and international cooperation and networking, data banks and project banks;

(v) Interrelation with other endogenous capacity-building and research and development activities;

(vi) Finance and monitoring.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Panel on Technology for Small-scale Economic Activities to Address the Basic Needs of Low-income Populations (E/CN.16/1995/2)

(b) The gender implications of science and technology for developing countries

The following topics were suggested under this theme:

(i) The implications of technological change for employment and skills;

(ii) The health implications of advances in medical knowledge;

(iii) Energy technologies;

(iv) Agricultural technologies;

(v) Science and technology education and entry into the professions.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Panel on Gender Implications of Science and Technology for Developing Countries (E/CN.16/1995/3)

(c) The science and technology aspects of the sectoral issue to be discussed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995: land management

The purpose of this theme was to relate the expertise of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development directly to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Panel on the Science and Technology Aspects of Land Management (E/CN.16/1995/4)

Other documentation

Note by the Secretary-General containing an overview of the reports of the panels (E/CN.16/1995/5)

3. Coordination of activities in science and technology for development

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1993/71, requested the Commission to consider, at its second session, the outcome of the coordination segment of the substantive session of the Council of 1994. In the same resolution, the Council also requested the Secretary-General to prepare, for that purpose, a report containing an analysis of and action-oriented proposals to improve the coordination mechanisms of organs, programmes and specialized agencies, including the World Bank, that were involved in the science and technology activities of the United Nations system.

The Economic and Social Council considered the above-mentioned report (E/1994/70) at its substantive session of 1994 and agreed on a set of conclusions on coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to science and technology for development (agreed conclusions/1994/I) (see A/49/3, chap. III, sect. A). It should be noted that the Council agreed, inter alia, that "closer linkages between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Trade and Development Board should be discussed in more depth, taking into account the need for links with the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations institutions".

In addition, the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system were requested to provide specific information to update the report with respect to their activities in the field of science and technology for development, including cooperation in technology assessment and forecasting as well as endogenous capacity-building in science and technology. The

information received was included in a report that is before the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on improving the coordination mechanisms within the United Nations system and with other organizations outside the system (E/CN.16/1995/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on activities of the United Nations Secretariat in the field of science and technology for development, including cooperation in technology assessment and forecasting (E/CN.16/1995/7)

4. Reports of the ad hoc panels

Contribution of technologies, including new and emerging ones, to industrialization

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1993/74, decided to have, in addition to the three panels of members of the Commission and outside experts referred to above, panels of experts or workshops, inter alia, on the contribution of technologies, including new and emerging ones, to industrialization in developing countries. The panel of experts met in Geneva on 21 and 22 October 1994 and its report is before the Commission for consideration.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the panel of experts on the contribution of technologies, including new and emerging technologies, to industrialization in developing countries (E/CN.16/1995/8)

Information technologies

The Economic and Social Council, also in its resolution 1993/74, decided that the issue of information technologies and their role in the field of science and technology, in particular in relation to the needs of developing countries, might be selected as a substantive theme of the Commission for the inter-sessional period 1995-1997.

Pursuant to the decision of the Bureau and in order to assist the Commission at its second session in the consideration of its future programme of work, a note by the Secretariat on information technologies and development is before the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on information technologies and development (E/CN.16/1995/9)

5. Action arising from the first session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1993/69, requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to submit to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its second session a report on the results obtained from the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer. The Ad Hoc Working Group completed its work in March 1994.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer (E/CN.16/1995/10)

6. Financing science and technology for development

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1993/73, requested the Secretary-General to convene a consultative meeting, and decided that the consultative meeting should:

(a) Compare and exchange views on portfolios of programmes and projects in science and technology in support of endogenous capacity-building at the national, regional and global levels;

(b) Consider ways and means of securing continual interaction and complementarity of the institutions involved in the financing of science and technology and suggest specific ways in which such cooperation could continue for the harmonization of their policies and the enhancement of specific opportunities for a coalition of resources among the interested financing and funding institutions.

The consultative meeting was convened on 1 and 2 December 1994 in New York. Its report is before the Commission for consideration.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the consultative meeting on a coalition of resources to meet the scientific and technological needs of developing countries (E/CN.16/1995/11)

7. Scientific and technological aspects of:

(a) Sustainable development

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1993/72, requested the Secretary-General to ensure that information on those aspects of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development that had a bearing on the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development was distributed to members of the latter Commission and that the work of the two Commissions was coordinated effectively. To this end, relevant information on the work of the

Commission on Sustainable Development is before the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for its consideration.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved and problems encountered in the application of science and technology for sustainable development (E/CN.16/1995/12)

(b) Conversion of military capacities

In its resolution 1993/70, the Economic and Social Council, noting the deliberations at the recent United Nations conferences held at Beijing, China, in October 1991, at Dortmund, Germany, in February 1992 and in Moscow, the Russian Federation, in October 1992 on the scientific and technological aspects of the conversion of military capacity, as well as the activities of the United Nations system in this field, in particular those of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UNCTAD, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its second session a report on the scientific and technological aspects of the conversion of military capacity for civilian use and sustainable development, with a focus on technology assessment issues, particularly the economic effects, employment implications and environmental consequences of alternative technological choices.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the scientific and technological aspects of the conversion of military capacities for civilian use and sustainable development (E/CN.16/1995/13)

8. Election of the chairperson and other officers for the third session of the Commission

The Commission may wish to follow the practice adopted at its first session by electing a Chairperson, and four Vice-Chairpersons for its third session. It is understood that one of the Vice-Chairpersons would also serve as Rapporteur.

9. Provisional agenda and organization of work for the third session for the Commission

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda for its third session, the documents to be submitted under each item and proposals on the organization of its work.

10. Other matters

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its second session

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/235, and Economic and Social Council decision 1992/218, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development submits its report to the Council.

Annex

TENTATIVE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Monday, 15 May

10 a.m.		Opening of the session.
	Item 1.	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
		Informal meeting.
		Guest speakers specially invited by the Secretariat and panels to address contemporary issues in the field of science and technology within the context of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.
3 p.m.		Continuation.

Tuesday, 16 May

10 a.m.	Item 2.	Substantive themes.
		Presentation of the outcome of the work of the main panels.
		(a) Technology for small-scale economic activities to address the basic needs of low-income populations.
3 p.m.		(b) The gender implications of science and technology for developing countries.

Wednesday, 17 May

10 a.m.	Item 2.	(c) Land management.
3 p.m.		Conclusions.

Thursday, 18 May

10 a.m.	Item 4.	Reports on industrialization and information technology.
3 p.m.	Item 5.	Action arising from the first session of the Commission.
	Item 6.	Financing science and technology for development.

Friday, 19 May		
10 a.m.	Item 7.	Scientific and technological aspects of (a) sustainable development; (b) conversion of military capacities.
3 p.m.	Item 3.	Coordination of activities in science and technology for development.
Monday, 22 May		
10 a.m.	Item 8.	Election of the chairperson and other officers for the third session of the Commission.
	Item 9.	Provisional agenda and organization of work for the third session of the Commission.
3 p.m.		Informal meeting.
Tuesday, 23 May		
10 a.m.		Informal meeting.
3 p.m.		Informal meeting.
Wednesday, 24 May		
10 a.m.		Informal meeting.
3 p.m.	Items 10, 8, 11.	Other matters; adoption of the report of the Commission on its second session.